

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 MC-02 /149 W

----- 128414

R 170918Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2099

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, MZ

SUBJ: UNSUCCESSFUL FRELIMO ATTACK AGAINST TETE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 548

1. HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 22/73, RELEASED AUGUST 14, REPORTS THAT AT 1930 HOURS ON AUGUST 10 FRELIMO FIRED A SERIES OF 122 MM. ROCKET GRENADES AGAINST TETE CITY, BUT MISSED ENTIRELY. PORTUGUESE COUNTER-ATTACKERS LOCATED THE SHOOTING SITE AND ARE PURSUING THE ENEMY, HAVE ALREADY KILLED SEVERAL AND CAPTURED ONE.

2. HIGH COMMAND SPOKESMAN COL. FRADE COMMENTED TO US THAT ATTACK WAS A TOTAL FAILURE AND UNIMPORTANT, UNLIKE RECENT ATTACK WHICH ACTUALLY REACHED TOWN OF MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA IN CABO DELGADO DISTRICT (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: THINGS SEEM TO BE HOTTING UP A BIT. THIS
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IS TRADITIONAL TIME OF YEAR FOR MAJOR FRELIMO EFFORTS,

WITH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION AND FRELIMO'S SEPTEMBER
25 ANNIVERSARY APPROACHING. NEW PORTUGUESE COMMANDER,
GENERAL BASTO MACHADO, ALSO LIKELY TO TRY TO WIN HIS SPURS.
SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS CARRIES STORIES OF PORTUGUESE TROOP
CONCENTRATION IN TETE, AND RUMORS OF IMPENDING MAJOR
PORTUGUESE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS THERE. ON HEELS OF EMBARRASS-
MENT OVER MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS, RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS OF
FRELIMO PRESENCE IN TOURISTICALLY IMPORTANT GORONGOSA AREA
AND GENERAL SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT FRELIMO ADVANCED ACTIVITIES,
INCREASED FRELIMO USE OF SOPHISTICATED 112 MM. ROCKETS AND
UNCERTAINTIES CREATED BY CHANGE OF HIGH COMMAND, PORTUGUESE
COULD USE SOME MAJOR VICTORIES.
VAN OSS

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